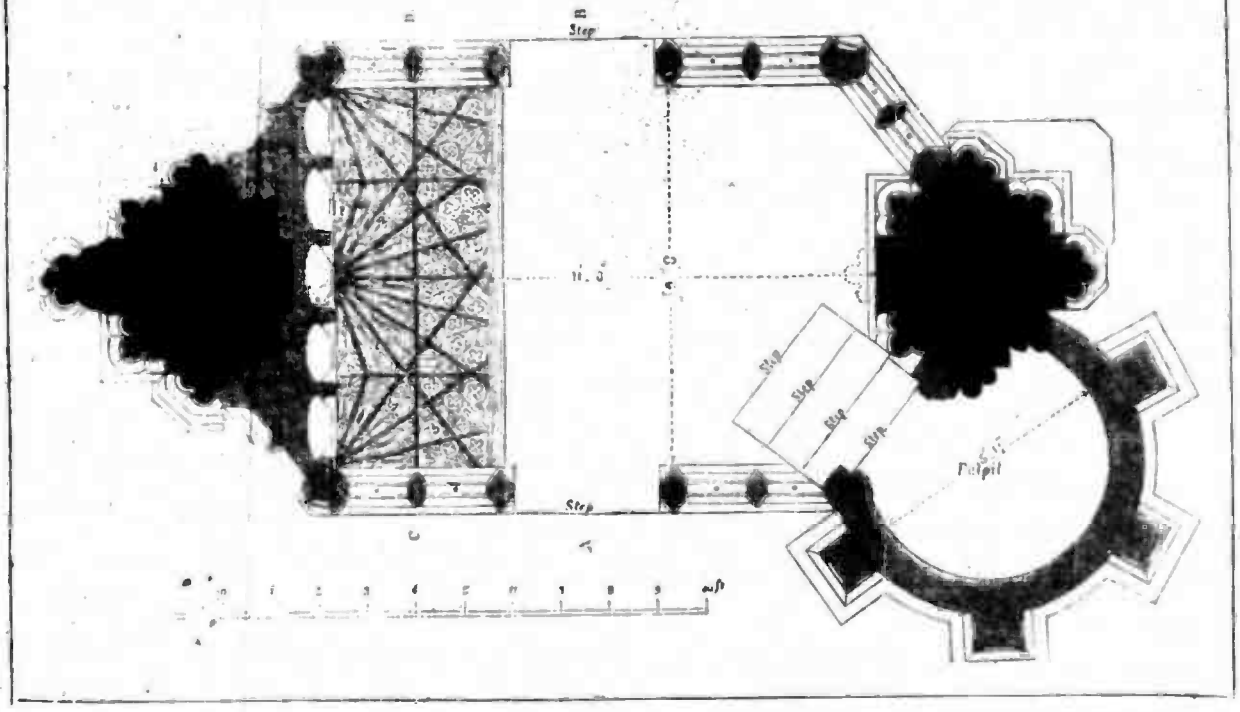
SUGAR'S CHANTRY CHAPEL, WELLS CATHEDRAL.—(PLAN.)



WELLS CATHEDRAL.—RESTORATION.

THE last number of THE BUILDER contains an elaborate engraving, from a drawing by Mr. F. T. Dollman, of the front of Sugar's Chantry Chapel; an elaborate and interesting example of the perpendicular style, which stands on the south side of the nave in Wells Cathedral. The annexed engravings give the plan and section of the structure. The plan shews the position of the chapel between the columns of the nave, one portion of the groined ceiling, and the pulpit. There is a piscina on the south side of the chapel.

Wells Cathedral is said to have been founded in the 10th century, and was substantially repaired or rather rebuilt in King Stephen's reign. The present church is said "to derive its origin from the munificence of Bishop Joceline de Welles, in the early part of the reign of King Henry III."* "He pulled down the greatest part of it to wit, all at the west end, built it a new from the very foundation, and hallowed or dedicated it Oct. 23, 1239." Shortly after this, the whole of the more eastern part was completed. The upper part of the south-west tower was built in the reign of Richard II. before the year 1386, and the corresponding part of the north-west, it is supposed, at the commencement of the following century.†

The west front, with its ranges of niches and statues, stands quite alone as an example of medieval sculpture, and should be seen by all students.

The restorations now going forward at the cathedral, though important, are not so extensive as many people imagine. It is to be wished, that the funds, which now barely amount to 4,000*l.* altogether, were considerably larger, for the sake of what is *proposed*, but which it will be impossible to accomplish with such limited means. The parts already restored, or nearly so, are the Lady's Chapel; the encaustic tile flooring being now in course of preparation. The stone reredos has been decorated in colour by Willement, and the east window restored also by him. The Purbeck marble shafts have been brought to view by the removal of the yellow wash formerly disfiguring them. The entire nave, aisles, transept, and centre tower have been scraped, and the coloured decorations restored. The rood screen, now organ screen, which was *painted* down, has been wholly restored. The organ is to be removed, and to be placed within the substance of the stone screen, so as to give an uninterrupted view of the whole building from west to east.

The Charles II. painted and discordant woodwork about the stalls is to be removed; canopies to be put to the stalls suitable to the beautiful decorated seats, &c., and the whole choir to be put to rights, if the funds can be obtained. There is a sad apathy in the country which cannot at present be overcome. There is no building or repairing fund of any consequence belonging to the dean and chapter, so that the prosecution of the works must depend upon public feeling and contribution.

The choir is certainly much in want of alteration, and perhaps justly claims the application of the remaining money subscribed; and we urge all who feel interested in the preservation of our architectural monuments, to raise fresh funds.

The *unrivalled* west front is in a most lamentable state of decay. The chapter annually expend what they have, and a good deal also from individual purses, to do what they can, but unless some considerable sum be raised, say 3,000*l.* or 4,000*l.*, in a very few years this front will be in a state almost *ruinous*.

There ought at *once* to be accurate models made of all the statues, which, owing to the bad stone of which they are formed, are *daily* crumbling away. They have been cited as the best works of mediæval art by Flaxman, and truly some of the figures are very fine, but in a short time they will have perished.

Many members of the chapter feel the force of this appeal, but they have no *money*, and we are doing our duty by calling public attention to the subject. We must not omit to mention the great liberality of Archdeacon Brymer in connection with this building, to whose exertions much is owing. The late dean, Dr. Goodenough, was also very active and liberal.

We contemplate an early visit to the cathedral, and shall be able to give an opinion on the manner in which the works are carried on, and describe more fully what has been done, and what requires doing.

* Britton's "History, &c."
† Britton *ut supra*.

HONOUR TO ARTISTS.—Mr. Henning, the sculptor, known by his restoration of the frieze of the Parthenon, which has been distributed all over Europe, with little pecuniary advantage to himself, was entertained a short time ago at Paisley, his native town, by 150 of his townsmen, who assembled to do him honour.

ARCHITECTURAL SPIRIT OF THE JOURNALS.

THE increasing attention to architectural topics, and to those of art in general, is strikingly exhibited in the space they occupy in the pages of contemporary journals. It is also to be noted, that they are always introduced in new periodicals, shewing that the projectors of these undertakings deem such subjects matters of general interest. This growing taste is aided by the facilities of illustration, which wood engraving affords. It appears desirable that THE BUILDER should give some notice of all such papers, and we have therefore arranged to do so in future numbers, in order that every event or subject of criticism may receive its proper notice, if only as an index to the places where particular subjects are treated of. Any extended criticism we shall not find room for, except in subjects of more than ordinary moment. Under a similar head, we propose to give occasional comments on matters connected with public improvement or architectural practice.

The third number of the *Freemasons' Journal* is announced with an illustration of "the celebrated candlesticks" presented by Sir Christopher Wren to the "Lodge of Antiquity."—The *Union Magazine* contains "An Appeal for National Art."—*Fraser* gives an article on Modern Painters, a review of the book written some time since by a Graduate of Oxford. The description of the "Common Lodging House," which forms the subject of a paper in the same journal, is well given, and cannot fail to suggest to many the great importance of a better arrangement in such receptacles. The improvement of the dwellings of the poor is a subject to which we have often directed attention, and it would be well if a little more energy were exhibited by societies and individuals who have charged themselves with the duty of improvement. What may be done at a trifling expense is seen in the lodging-house noticed in the last number of THE BUILDER, which though well ventilated, clean, and, compared with other such places, comfortable, is yet very far from what might be effected in a house built for the purpose. That such undertakings, if well contrived, would pay, we entertain no doubt, indeed at present many of the proprietors make sums of considerable amount, annually. We shall return to this subject shortly.

The *Pictorial Times* of Saturday contains a beautiful wood engraving of the chancel of Cobham Church, Kent, drawn by Mackenzie. It appears, that the piscina and sedilia have

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